

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of generating a hash signal representative of a multimedia signal, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a bit-stream comprising a compressed multimedia signal;

selectively reading from the bit-stream predetermined parameters,

wherein said predetermined parameters relate to perceptual information of the multimedia signal; and

deriving a hash function from said parameters.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multimedia signal comprises at least one of an audio signal, a video signal and an image signal.

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multimedia signal has been compressed using at least one of transform encoding, subband encoding and parametric encoding.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameters relate to at least one of the energies of frequency bands; the

amplitudes of frequency bands; the tonality of frequency bands; the luminance of an area of a video signal; and the chrominance of an area of a video signal.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of analysing the received bit-stream in order to determine the decoding scheme used to compress the multimedia signal.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said analysing step comprises comparing the properties of the bit-stream with a database containing properties of a number of coding schemes.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of selectively reading predetermined parameters comprises: locating said predetermined parameters within the bit-stream by using ~~the~~ a syntax description;

reading the located predetermined parameters; and

decoding the predetermined parameter using ~~the~~ a decoder description.

9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameters relate to a first set of frequency bands, and wherein the step of deriving the hash function comprises deriving estimates of values of spectral information present in a second set of frequency bands from the predetermined

parameters, the hash function subsequently being calculated from the estimated values.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said multimedia signal is compressed using a parametric encoding scheme, and wherein the predetermined parameters relate to at least one of the sinusoidal components, the noise components and the transient components utilised within the parametric scheme.

11. (currently amended) A computer readable medium including a computer program arranged to ,when executed by a computer, perform the method as claimed in claim 1.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A hash signal datum representative of a multimedia signal embodied in computer readable memory, the hash signal datum having been generated by selectively reading predetermined parameters relating to perceptual properties of the multimedia signal from a bit-stream comprising a compressed version of the multimedia signal.

15. (currently amended) An apparatus arranged to generate a hash signal representative of a multimedia signal, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver arranged to receive a bit-stream comprising a compressed multimedia signal;

a decoder (240) arranged to selectively read from the bit-stream predetermined parameters, wherein said predetermined parameters relate to perceptual information of the multimedia signal;

a processing unit (270) arranged to derive a hash function from said parameters.